



TOWN OF WAKEFIELD

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Wakefield Unified Prevention Coalition Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 21, 2025, 9-10AM

HYBRID in person at **WAKEFIELD TOWN HALL 1st floor Conference Room** or Zoom Teleconference:
<https://uso6web.zoom.us/j/88951019172?pwd=YRYsgaKowl9b5j6iAVv9CJlW8AoJq7.1>

Attendees: Suzanne Burns, Deputy Chief Craig Calabrese, Officer Matt Malone, Maureen Buzby, Jennifer Waczkowski, Jackie Powers, Jean Yentile, Pina Masciarelli, Officer Mike Pietrantonio, Officer Kelly Tobyne, Merrie Rothstein, Sophie Greenebaum, Madhu Mohanraj, Liz Parsons

9:00 AM Welcome, Introductions & Vision/Mission Congrats to Officer Amy Rando, who received the MLK Community Service Award from the WHRC!

9:05 AM "7 Minute Clinic" Coalition Assessment Introduction:

Liz shared a draft of a coalition assessment survey that could be used to the strengths and gaps of the coalition. Members reviewed and provided feedback.

9:20 AM Coalition Updates

- **Youth Action Team:**

Multi-lingual student advisory group at the Galvin will convene this spring to support ML students in identifying needs/barriers for ML students/families when connecting with the school and community.

Community Café project for LGBTQ+ youth is underway and new collaborators have been identified to help make the sessions successful.

The WMHS YAT club is working on creating and posting positive messaging in bathrooms to support students who may want to quit/reduce their nicotine use

9:20 AM School Programs

- **Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS):**

Liz is collaborating with public health/prevention colleagues to review the survey instrument and offer support to the district.

- **Spring Parent University:**

Planning underway to provide in-person keynote and workshop as in past years.

- **School Start Forums:**

WPS continues the informational sessions about school start times, including the science behind the initiative. They've hosted 2 forums to date with a third set for February 5th at 7pm.

- **Diversion Program:**

The program was offered this month. Suzanne continues to do the follow-ups with student goal setting and continues to offer the lunch group to support harm reduction.

- **STOP Violence Grant**



- **Positive School Culture Team at Galvin Middle School:** Identified a peer training model centered around “belonging” to advance the positive school culture and hope to include a staff wellness/belonging component as well.
- **Professional Development and student support at WMHS**

9:30 AM **Wakefield Social Service Provider Updates:** Anthony working with HR and hope to have candidate in place next month.

9:35 AM **Partner Updates**

- **Mystic Valley Public Health Coalition (MVPHC):**

Two students from the MVPHC Public Health Leadership Group attended a legislative education day on January 15th, and visited DPH’s Bureau of Substance Addiction Services, to share information about effective alcohol policies to reduce alcohol harms, including underage drinking. The statewide coalition, MA Alcohol Policy Coalition (MAPC) members helped to organize the event which included training 50+ students across the state for 2-3 months. Sophie will send information.

- **Regional Tobacco Prevention:**

NFG activities continue across MA; Newton’s full city council will meet soon to discuss it and what they decide may impact other cities and towns. NFG updates are posted in the stores and on social media, some content indicates a lack of understanding of NFG.

- **Wakefield Alliance Against Violence (WAAV)**

WAAV moved the monthly meeting to 5:30pm at Lakeside to improve membership and attendees. Doing support group in 6-week session for family members of survivors of DV and sexual assault. Reach out to waavcares@gmail.com for more information.

- **Senior Night:** Raised 9,400 with goal of 25k. Chamber will help with the fundraising.
- **Others**

10:00 AM Adjourn

Next Meeting: February 25, 2025 9-10am at Town Hall, First Floor Conference Room AND Virtual

Wake-Up's vision is a safe, vibrant, resourceful Wakefield in which all members, young to old, engage in making healthy decisions.

Wake-Up (Wakefield Unified Prevention Coalition), formed in 2011, is a community-based coalition of residents, businesses, organizations, professionals, and advocates who work together to promote a healthy community environment. The coalition is dedicated to reducing alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use among its residents, especially its youth. Partnering locally and regionally, we take a leadership role in implementing environmental and evidence-based substance prevention strategies.